

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS STATE 012621

TOSEC 244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

WHITE HOUSE PLS PASS SAM 86970

HEREWITH FULL TEXT STEWART HENSLEY BYLINER AS CARRIED ON
UPI NIGHT WIRES O124 JANUARY 19:

WASHINGTON UPI -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS TURNED A MINOR
SOVIET-AMERICAN INCIDENT IN LENDINGRAD INTO A MAJOR MYSTERY
FOR WHAT APPEARED TO BE NO GOOD REASON AT ALL.

OFFICIALS SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S STEADFAST REFUSAL TO COM-
MENT ON THE WEEK-OLD AFFAIR--AND PUT IT IN PROPER PERSPEC-
TIVE-- WAS DUE TO FEAR OF OFFENDING SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY A. KISSINGER BY NOT GETTING HIS PRIOR APPROVAL.

THEY CITED THE CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LENGTH TO WHICH
OFFICIALS ARE FORCED TO GO TO AVOID THE WRATH OF
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KISSINGER, WHO HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE DOESN'T APPRECIATE ANY

GREAT INITIATIVES ON THE PART OF HIS SPOKESMEN.

THE DEPARTMENT BEGAN EARLY FRIDAY MORNING TO GET QUES-

TIONS FROM NEWSMEN ABOUT A WASHINGTON REPORT THAT THE HEAD OF THE U.S. CONSULAR OFFICE IN LENINGRAD, CULVER GLEYSTEN, HAD BEEN PICKED UP ON THE STREET A WEEK EARLIER AND TAKEN TO A GOVERNMENT BUILDING WHERE HE WAS SEVERELY BEATEN.

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN JOHN F. KING WAS ABLE TO SAY ONLY THAT HE HAD CHECKED ON THE MATTER AND WAS ABLE TO SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT GLEYSTEN HAD NOT BEEN BEATEN. KING DECLINED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY "INCIDENT", DECLARING: "I DON'T WANT TO SAY." HE LATER ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT, "I AM GOING TO LOOK INTO THIS MORE BEFORE I MAKE THE STATEMENT."

MEANWHILE, OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS THAT ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE 25 MAN U.S. MISSION IN LENINGRAD HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY POLICE FOR QUESTIONING ON THE BASIS OF GROUNDLESS SUSPICION, ROUGHED UP A BIT, BUT THEN TURNED LOOSE.

HE SAID THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS "MUCH LESS THAN MEETS THE EYE." BUT BY THE TIME THE STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS OFFICE CLOSED LAST NIGHT, KING HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT. (END TEXT) RUSH

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